whether it is a fact that the work for construction of 6000 kilometre segment into four lane has been allocated in the names of contractors during the last financial year; and

if so, the details thereof; State-wise and National Highway-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, has decided for the improvement of National Highways under various phases (phases I to VII) of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) involving an investment of Rs. 2,20,000 Crore.

(b) and (c) State-wise and National Highways-wise details of contracts awarded during last financial year are annexed. [See Appendix 207, AnnexurelO]

Development of Vadinar Port

2811. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether Government are planning to develop Vadinar Port fcr the cargo other than oil cargo;

if so, the status thereof;

whether Government are considering to form joint venture/SPU with Government of Gujarat/GMB for the purpose; and

if so, what would be the modality?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port Trust has taken initiative to develop Vadinar Port to handle cargo other than Oil Cargo as creation of berthing and allied facilities for handling cargo for the proposed power station of Sikka.

No, Sir.

Does not arise.

Land acquisition by NHAI

2812. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with more than Rs. 3400 crores already spent on North-

South and East-West corridors the land acquisition has been lagging behind in all the States;

whether only about 14.90 per cent of the land requirement has so far been acquired by the NHAI with Andhra Pradesh recording the lowest acquisition share of 0.2 per cent; and

whether the corridors projects are scheduled to be completed and commissioned by early 2008 and if so, whether Government would catch up with the deadline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Upto 31st March 2006 an expenditure of Rs. 4?70.62 crore has been incurred on North South & East West Corridors and more than 50% of land has been acquired. The acquisition of land is not lagging behind in most of the States.

No, Sir. Mere than 50% of land acquisition for North-South and East-West Corridor is completed. In Andhra Pradesh, more than 65% of land has been acquired.

It is the endeavour of the Government to complete the Corridors substantially by December, 2008.

Separate MMD forfishing vessels

2813. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government have formed a task force to study the need to set up a separate Marine Mercantile Department (MMD) exclusively for the fishing vessels;

if so, the details thereof;

whether it is also a fact that the present structure MMD has shown delays and lack of enthusiasm for the fishing sector; and

the steps proposed to set up a separate MMD for the non-shipping sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.